

Chancellor appointment closes controversy



photo by Patrick Doty

John Christensen speaks during the announcement of David Miller as athletic director on May 18. Christensen was named chancellor earlier in the month.

SCOTT STEWART
EDITOR IN CHIEF

John Christensen was confirmed on May 18 by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents as the next permanent chancellor of UNO.

The announcement that Christensen would be the next leader of the campus was made May 8 at 10 a.m. during a press conference at the Thompson Alumni Center.

"Over the past eight months, [Christensen] has demonstrated integrity and openness and has provided energetic leadership for the campus," NU President James B. Milliken said in a statement. "It's clear that John Christensen loves UNO, and he has an ambitious vision for its future."

Milliken also acknowledged the other three finalists for the position: Allen Mori, the vice president and provost of California State University, Dominguez Hills; John Frederick, the vice president and provost of University of Nevada, Reno; and Wilson G. Bradshaw, the president of Metropolitan State University in Minnesota.

"We had an impressive group of candidates and four outstanding finalists for this position, reinforcing what we all know: that UNO is an excellent institution with enormous potential," Milliken said.

In a letter to the UNO community distributed May 8, Milliken explained the process he went through to arrive at his decision.

"I weighed carefully the qualities of the four finalists and what they would bring to the position," Milliken wrote. "I talked with many of their colleagues on their campuses, and asked

faculty and administrators at UNO and in my office to do the same. We received much helpful information from this reference-checking, in addition to the campus comments. I spent about six hours with each of the candidates when they were on their campus visits, and I had hours of additional conversation with them during the last two weeks."



Tim Kaldahl

Christensen has been serving as the interim chancellor since Nancy Belck's resignation last September in the midst of controversies surrounding the UNO Athletic Department.

Those controversies also claimed Jim Buck, the former vice chancellor for administration who resigned last August over discoveries made by the *Omaha World-Herald* regarding more than \$100,000 in questionable spending, and former Athletic Director David Herbster, who resigned in November citing a diminished ability to lead.

Christensen has spent much of his professional career at UNO, starting in 1978 as an instructor in the Department of Counseling and Special Education. He became the speech pathology program coordinator in 1980 and the chair of the Department of Special Education and Communication Disorders in 1988.

In 1998, Christensen was named the acting dean of the College of Education, a position made permanent the next year until his appointment as interim vice chancellor for academic and student affairs in 2003, which was confirmed in 2004. He held that position until being tapped as interim chancellor.

Closely following Christensen's confirmation as
See **CHRISTENSEN:** Page 3

Miller named athletic director

ANGI SADA
COPY EDITOR

There's a new sheriff in town for the UNO Athletics Department.

David Miller was named athletic director on May 17. He fills a post left vacant by David Herbster's November resignation. Tom Frette, UNO's head athletic trainer, helmed the department during the search for a permanent replacement.

John Christensen, recently appointed chancellor of the University of Nebraska's Omaha campus, said Miller was an impressive candidate. Miller was the only candidate asked to visit the campus twice.

"David has impressed us all with his thoughts on college athletics and the importance of placing the student-athlete front and center," Christensen said in a statement. "David wants the students in his program to succeed both on and off the playing field."

Miller said in an interview with the *Gateway* that he had already begun his 90-day plan, meeting with key members of the university and local community.

"We want well-rounded student athletes that, when they leave here, they feel they made the

right choice," said Miller. "I expect our athletes to attend class and graduate, number one reason why they are here ... and I expect to win and want to win."

Miller took the reins of the Maverick sports machine on May 24. He is the former associate athletics director at Southern Methodist University, a private university of about 11,000 students located in Dallas.

Miller holds a master's degree in sports administration from Ohio University as well as a bachelor's degree in business administration from Regis University. He is also a United States Air Force veteran and was first stationed at Offutt Air Force Base near Omaha.

Both Christensen's and Miller's appointments close nearly a year of controversy that eventually led to the resignations of former chancellor Nancy Belck, former vice chancellor for administration Jim Buck and Herbster.

The controversy surrounded allegations of misdirection of athletics department funds, and the fallout after unexpected staff cuts created fervor among athletics boosters and within the community.

News Editor Taylor Muller contributed to this report.

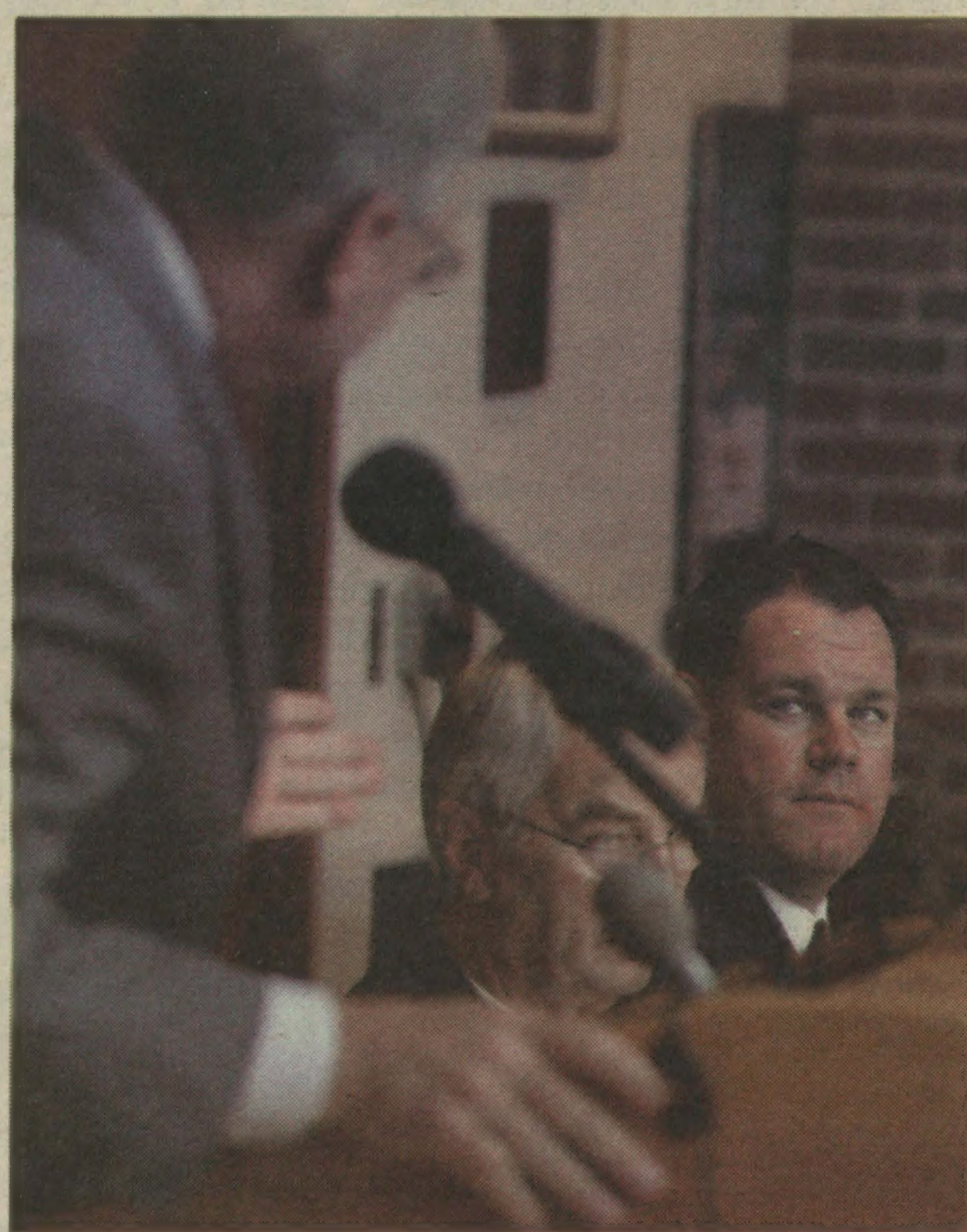


photo by Patrick Doty

David Miller, the recently appointed athletic director, was most recently the associate athletic director at Southern Methodist University.

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News

Taylor H. Muller | News Editor

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news@gateway.unomaha.edu | June 5, 2007

News You Can Use

COMPILED BY
SCOTT STEWART
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Library construction Phase II underway

Renovation will continue on the Criss Library this summer with Phase II, consisting of repairs and upgrades to the existing systems in the current building, as well as new furniture, technology infrastructure and

other projects.

Until further notice, the first floor entrance to the library is closed to accommodate construction on the lower level of the library. Patrons should use the northeast and northwest stairwells to obtain access to the lower level.

The Kahn Addition will remain open during renovation. Materials on the first floor include current periodicals, newspapers, microfiche and the information desk.

Government documents and archives have been relocated to the third floor.

For more information, contact the circulation desk at 554-3206 or visit library.unomaha.edu.

'Kids 'n' Kans' carnival today

The UNO chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of American is holding a canned food drive from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the northeast corner of Elmwood Park today,

Tuesday, June 5.

Children can participate in a variety of activities, including face painting, a three-legged race and a pie-eating contest. A can donation purchases three tickets, and a dollar donation can also be used to buy tickets.

The event is recognizing National Hunger Awareness Day. All cans collected will be donated to the Omaha Food Bank.

For more information, contact Jaime Ishil at 201-7798.

Crime Log

SCOTT STEWART
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Monday, April 23

11:35 p.m. Campus Security was dispatched to Peter Kiewit Institute regarding a disturbance. Student reported misdemeanor assault by another student.

Tuesday, April 24

11 p.m. Campus Security received a report of a disturbance at Kayser Hall. Suspect was identified and referred for disciplinary action.

Wednesday, April 25

11:51 p.m. Campus Security discovered an abandoned stolen vehicle at the Chili Greens' campus. The Omaha Police Department was notified, and the vehicle was impounded by the police.

Thursday, April 26

11:47 a.m. Student worker at the University Bookstore reported theft of personal property. A suspect was identified, and Omaha police were notified. Incident occurred between 12 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 25.

12:19 p.m. Campus Security officers responded to a noise complaint at University Village. Five suspects were found in position of alcohol. University Village resident assistant had suspects destroy the alcohol.

1:24 p.m. Student reported theft of personal property from University Library. Incident occurred between 1:05 p.m. and 1:07 p.m.

3:10 p.m. Campus Security responded to complaints of unauthorized sale of magazines on campus. Two suspects were identified; they were issued ban and bar letters and escorted off campus.

10:20 p.m. Campus Security witnessed a student in I Lot in possession of alcohol. Subsequent investigation resulted in the student being issued a citation by Omaha police for minor in possession.

10:50 p.m. Further investigation of the minor in possession incident in I Lot at 10:30 p.m. led to the discovery of an alcohol party at University Village. Two students were issued citations by Omaha police for procuring alcohol for minors, one student was issued a citation for minor in possession and two students were released without charges.

Friday, April 27

11:45 p.m. Campus Security employee witnessed four students in possession of alcohol at Scott Village. Alcohol was confiscated, and students were referred for disciplinary action.

Saturday, April 28

12:03 a.m. Campus Security officer witnessed alcohol consumption at Scott Village. Subsequent investigation led to the issuance of a citation by Omaha police for possession of a controlled substance and the referral for disciplinary action of three students.

12:40 a.m. Campus Security officers witnessed suspicious activity in Lot 9. Further investigation disclosed two suspects smoking marijuana in a vehicle. Omaha police were notified; one suspect was issued a citation for possession of a controlled substance.

1:40 a.m. Former UNO student found at University Village in possession of alcohol. The visitor volunteered to surrender the alcohol to Campus Security and leave campus.

2:50 a.m. Campus Security came upon a suspected burglary at Scott Village. Further investigation resulted in Omaha police being contacted; one student was issued a

citation for possession of a controlled substance as well as possession of drug paraphernalia and two students were cited for minor in possession of alcohol.

Monday, April 30

6:20 p.m. Staff member reported theft of university property from Peter Kiewit Institute. Incident occurred between 12:30 p.m., Friday, April 27, and 6:15 p.m., Monday, April 30.

Tuesday, May 1

9:49 a.m. Staff member reported theft of university property from Weber Fine Arts Building. Incident occurred between 5:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

11:47 a.m. Student reported theft of personal property from University Library. Incident occurred at 11:30 a.m.

10:15 p.m. Campus Security came upon two individuals in I Lot. Contact with suspects resulted in a verbal altercation between Campus Security and the suspects. Campus Security requested assistance from the Omaha Police Department. A physical altercation developed between the suspects and the police. Campus Security issued a ban and bar letter to both suspects. Omaha police escorted suspects off campus.

Friday, May 4

12:56 a.m. Campus Security officers were dispatched to Scott Village regarding a complaint of controlled substances. Upon arrival resident assistants had destroyed the alcohol. The controlled substance and paraphernalia were confiscated and taken to Campus Security. Two suspects were referred for disciplinary action.

12:55 p.m. Student reported theft of personal property from vehicle parked in Elmwood Park. Incident occurred between 8 a.m. and 12:55 p.m.

Thursday, May 10

3:47 a.m. Campus Security witnessed a suspicious person flee when Campus Security officers attempted contact with the suspicious person. A foot pursuit ensued, resulting in a brief altercation. Suspect was not affiliated with UNO and was issued a ban and bar letter.

Monday, May 14

8:03 a.m. Staff member reported theft of university property from University Library. Incident occurred between 1 p.m., Friday, May 11, and 7:45 a.m., Monday, May 14.

Tuesday, May 15

2:34 p.m. Staff member reported theft of university property from Sapp Fieldhouse. Incident occurred between 7 a.m., Tuesday, May 1, and 1:15 p.m., Tuesday, May 15.

Wednesday, May 16

2:30 p.m. Student reported theft of personal property from their vehicle while parked in Lot K. Theft occurred between 1:30 and 1:35 p.m.

Thursday, May 17

8:25 p.m. Staff member reported theft of university property from Milo Bail Student Center. Incident occurred at 3:15 p.m., Wednesday, May 16.

Friday, May 18

3:43 p.m. Campus Security identified three individuals intoxicated in I Lot. Two individuals were visitors; the third party was a student and was referred for disciplinary action.

Sunday, May 20

2:14 p.m. Campus Security was dispatched to Peter

Kiewit Institute to take a report of a verbal threats made by a student against a student worker. The incident occurred at 12 p.m., Friday, May 18.

7:50 p.m. While on patrol, a Campus Security officer came upon two visitors engaged in a publicly incident act in T Lot. The suspects were removed from campus.

Monday, May 21

5 p.m. Student reported the theft of personal property from Milo Bail Student Center. Incident occurred between 2:05 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Tuesday, May 22

3:59 a.m. While on patrol, Campus Security came upon a verbal and physical altercation at the intersection of Maverick Plaza and University Drive South. The altercation was between a male student and a male and three females who are not believed to be affiliated. Omaha police were requested. Prior to the police arrival, the non-affiliated individuals left the scene. The student was advised to return to his residence.

11:30 a.m. Campus Security was dispatched to University Village regarding a complaint of the presence of a controlled substance. Upon arrival at the scene, the student was not present. Campus Security confiscated the controlled substance and paraphernalia. The student was referred for disciplinary action.

Wednesday, May 23

3 p.m. Staff member reported the theft of personal property from Annex 16. The theft occurred between 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 16, and 7 a.m., Thursday, May 17.

THE
Gateway
SINCE 1913

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The Gateway is published by the University of Nebraska at Omaha Student Publications Committee on Tuesdays and Fridays during the fall and spring semesters and on Tuesdays during the summer sessions.

Advertising inquiries should be directed to the Advertising Manager. Other inquiries and complaints should be directed to the Editor-in-Chief. Copies of the Student Publications Committee inquiry/complaint policy are available at The Gateway's office, Milo Bail Student Center Room 115.

The Gateway is funded as follows: 70 percent advertising revenue, 30 percent student fees allocated by Student Government.

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Omaha, NE 68182-0197

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Candles, balloons for Sudanese awareness, peace

PATRICK DOTY
PEOPLE EDITOR

Children and adults watched in silence as four balloons were released, one by one, over Memorial Park.

First green, then red, then black, then white: the Sudanese colors. Each represented a fact, like number of deaths, from the crisis that has been ongoing in Darfur since 2003.

Candles were slowly lit throughout the crowd, everyone sharing a flame with a neighbor. Each flame represented, said a voice over the speaker system, approximately 17,000 fallen Sudanese.

Darfur is located in the western part of Sudan. Since war broke out in 2003 between the government and two groups of rebels, many groups, including the U.S. Congress, have recognized the crisis as a genocide, according to savedarfur.org.

Sources vary on the number of deaths due to the crisis. An Associated Press article published on June 1, 2007, reported 200,000 deaths, while savedarfur.org reports there were an estimated 400,000 deaths as of November 2005.

The candlelight vigil at the Darfur Education Rally on Sunday evening was an attempt to raise awareness of the crisis in Darfur. More than 200 attended, said Sheila Janca, event planner for Omaha's Save Darfur Coalition.

Although the Omaha chapter of the Save Darfur Coalition has been around for a few months, this was the first event that the group has organized.

"We've noticed that basically people

are very uneducated as to what's going on [in Darfur]," said Janca, "The big thing we want to do tonight is to bring awareness and to let people know what's happening."

Knowledge and awareness is exactly what Dan Esch was looking to get out of the rally when he stumbled upon it while "trying to kill some time," he said.

"I really don't know what to expect [from the rally]," said Esch, who graduated with a Writer's Workshop degree this year. "I've heard about what's going on in Darfur, but I don't know what exactly is going on and what exactly I can do to help out."

Speaking at the rally to aide the Coalition in raising awareness were Bakheit Shata, CEO of the Darfur Community Association; Khon Mar, member of the Southern Sudan Community Association; and David Chand, adjunct professor of international studies and political science at UNO.

Attempts at peace in Sudan have been made, said Chand, but they have been unsuccessful.

"I want you to know that there is no peace in the Sudan," said Chand. "[A] peace [treaty] was signed in 2005; it is not working. Another peace [treaty] was signed in the south in 1997; it did not work. You cannot have peace on one side of the country and killing on the other."

"Each of us here has a voice to be heard and we need to say to the international community that we have to save the Darfur people," said Mar. "We need to say 'stop genocide.'"

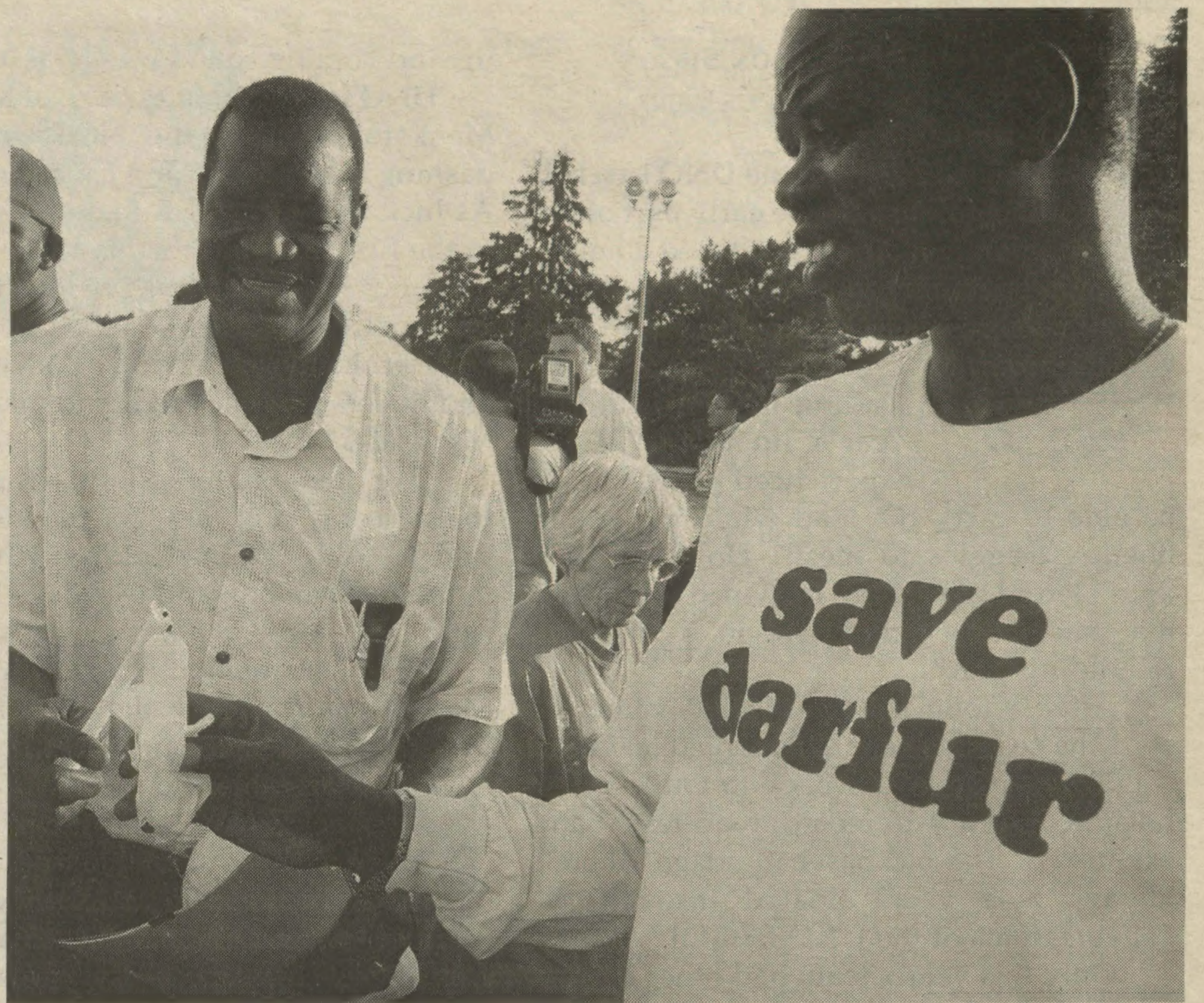


photo by Patrick Doty

David Chand, left, adjunct professor of international studies and political science at UNO, helps Khon Mar, a member of the Southern Sudan Community Association, light a candle at the vigil on Sunday evening. Both Chand and Mar spoke at the rally.

Summer camp brings Mav Kids to campus

ASHLEE SCHUETTE
LINE EDITOR

If you're out and about at the Heath, Physical Education and Recreation Building during the months of June and July, you might find yourself bombarded by little kids. Lots of little kids.

Beginning June 4, the UNO Office of Campus Recreation will enter its 12th season of the Mav Kids Summer Day Camp. The camp provides an environment for the youth of Omaha to take advantage of the campus community's academic and recreational activities.

Children and young adults entering first through 12th grade will participate in seven weekly sessions, all of which have specific themes. The camp begins daily at 7:30 a.m. and ends at 5:30 p.m.

Lisa Adams, director of the Mav Kids Camp, said the sessions build strong friendships among the kids that last not only throughout the summer but into the school year as well.

"The connections through the program are some of the strongest points we see," Adams said.

The theme for the first week will be "Lost in the Jungle" and will feature community presentations in the morning. The Omaha Police Department will talk to

the kids about how easy it is for children to get lost and ways to prevent this dangerous occurrence. The kids will also hear various presentations on endangered animals.

As the afternoon hours approach, the kids will split into small groups by age where they will participate in various sport and game activities such as swimming and rock climbing in a noncompetitive environment. The kids will also be able to take part in less physically active games such as learning about nature, arts and crafts as well as other theme-related activities.

Each Friday will consist of a field trip that is appropriate to the designated theme for the week.

Jodie Rasmussen, a camp worker and recreation major at UNO, describes the camp as pure fun for not only the kids, but for staff as well.

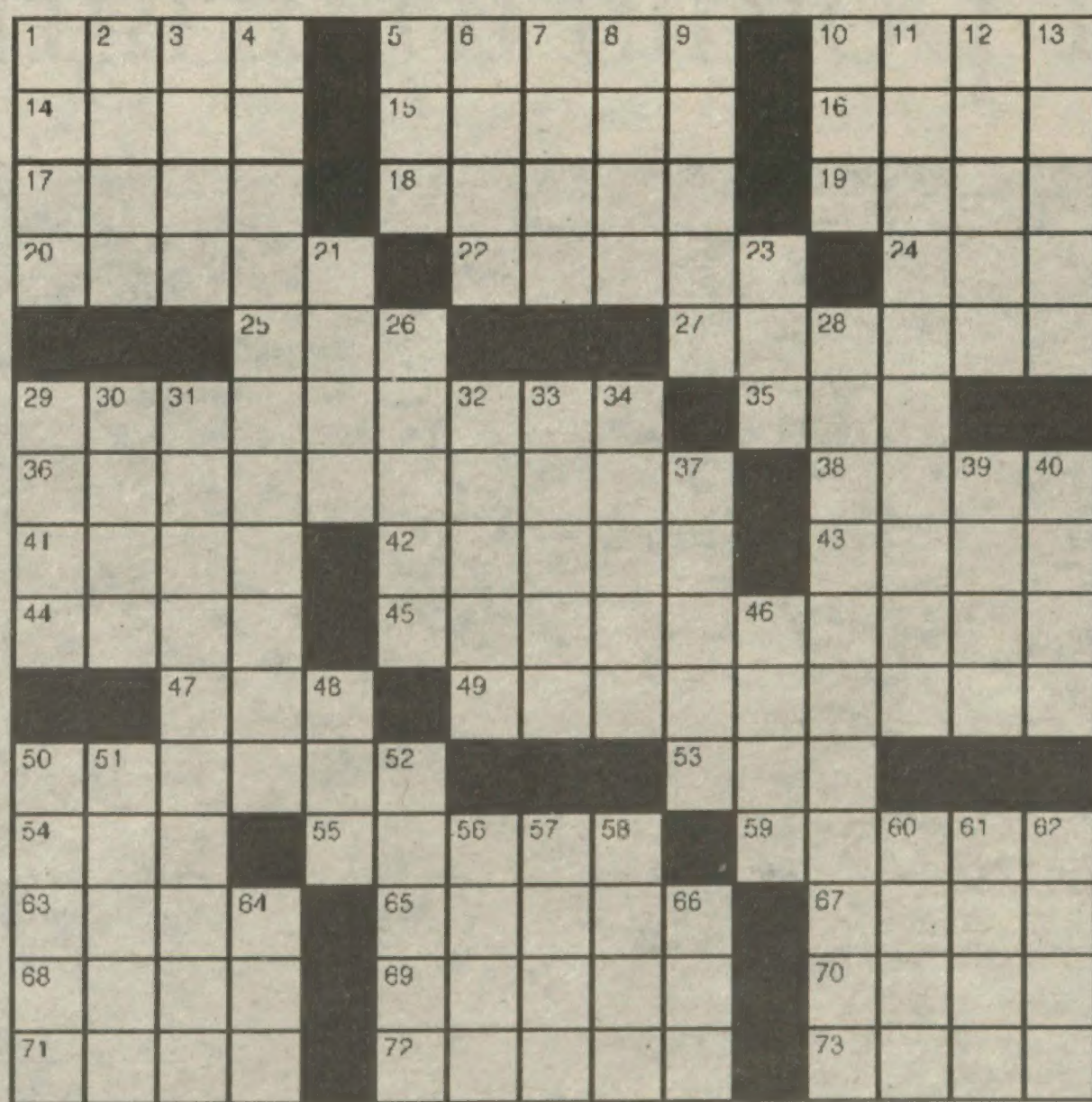
"You are able to see the kids get out and meet new friends and experience new things," Rasmussen said.

Adams said, the camp staff usually consists of 28 to 30 volunteers including students from HPER. Many of the student helpers are education majors.

The 2007 Mav Kids Summer Day Camp is full but those interested in next year's can find more information on the Mav Kids Web site at unomaha.edu/camps/pages/mavkid.php.

Crossword

- ACROSS**
- Fixer-upper phrase
 - Nordic toast
 - Chills
 - Lamb portion
 - Irate
 - Aching
 - Bryn ___ College
 - Of the Arctic
 - Feline grind
 - Cyberspace message
 - Three-masted sailing ship
 - Election mo.
 - Comic's bit
 - Ingeniously simple
 - Strips of land
 - Tease
 - Plug between oral and nasal cavities
 - Highland miss
 - Revered figure
 - Showed again
 - Regarding
 - Delhi dress
 - Disparagement
 - Actress Ryan
 - Skin-crawling sensation
 - Beetle type
 - Black goo
 - Simple bed
 - Astin and Penn
 - Tangle of tongues
 - Skip over
 - Ciao in Hilo
 - Mauna Loa flow
 - "Typee" sequel
 - Costner of films
 - Legal claim
 - Breathe shallowly
 - Meager
 - Wars of the Roses winner



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6/9/07

Solutions

1 Across: Fixer-upper phrase
2 Across: Nordic toast
3 Across: Chills
4 Across: Lamb portion
5 Across: Irate
6 Across: Aching
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33 Across: Mauna Loa flow
34 Across: "Typee" sequel
35 Across: Costner of films
36 Across: Legal claim
37 Across: Breathe shallowly
38 Across: Meager
39 Across: Wars of the Roses winner

48 Across: Xenon or neon
49 Across: Ice-cream portion
50 Across: Pause mark
51 Across: Bills
52 Across: Baldwin brother
53 Across: PBS series
54 Across: Front of the calf
55 Across: "Joanie Loves Chachi" star
56 Across: At all times
57 Across: Long and lean
58 Across: Wee one
59 Across: Pismire

From CHRISTENSEN: Page 1

chancellor, David Miller was named the new athletic director on May 24. Tim Kaldahl, who has been serving as interim director of university relations since August, was also given his post permanently on May 17.

However, there are still other major job vacancies left to fill on UNO's campus. Searches are expected to begin soon for Christensen's replacement as vice chancellor for academic affairs and Julie Totten's replacement as vice

chancellor for business and finance. Totten replaced Buck as the vice chancellor for administration.

"Now, it's time to roll up our sleeves, continuing our work for this institution about which we care so deeply," Christensen wrote in an e-mail to university students, faculty and staff on May 8. "Thanks for everything you do, everyday, to make UNO a place we are proud to call our own. Let's get started...."

Mavericks slide into D-II regional championship



Bob Herold

JASON SIBSON
SPORTS EDITOR

For the UNO baseball team, the early part of the season produced a never-ending list of questions: How will they produce runs without their four leading hitters from last year's lineup? Will the experienced pitching staff be able to carry the load while the young lineup struggles to mesh? How is Coach Bob Herold going to convince his Mavs that success is achievable in a so-called rebuilding year?

After a long stretch of road games to start the season, these questions remained.

The Mavs headed back to Omaha in a tailspin with a 9-13 record, road-tested and exhausted. The old baseball adage "there's always next year" floated through the conversations of the UNO faithful.

Only this year's team had other ideas.

With bash brothers Evan Porter and Chris Weimer in the middle of the order, the young lineup flourished from March onwards. At years end, the two notched 30 home runs between them to go with 119 combined RBIs. An already reliable pitching staff really began dealing in the second half, led by eventual North Central Conference Pitcher of the Year Tyler Cloyd. Cloyd's dominant season was highlighted by a stingy 1.54 ERA and a big goose egg in his loss column.

Even with the star-power emerging at mid-season, post-season success for Herold's

up-and-coming squad was unassured.

UNO lost to conference rival Minnesota-Mankato twice in the NCC tournament, dashing their hopes for a conference crown. As luck would have it, they drew Mankato in the first round of the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II Central Regional Tournament.

Herold was licking his chops for another crack at the mighty Mankato Purple Mavericks.

"We just barely got in [the regional tournament], and they got the No. 1 seed," said Herold. "We just played [them] twice in the tournament, and two days later we're right back at them. I was excited."

Their excitement carried them past Mankato and through the other four teams in the region for their first-ever regional title.



Chris Weimer

"We weren't supposed to win the thing," said Herold. "But we went down there, and everybody just got after it. They were fired up."

They arrived in Montgomery, Ala., as severe underdogs to win the NCAA Division II College World Series. Nevertheless, UNO managed to win their opener before being eliminated in the third game in a 4-2 loss to Cal State-Los Angeles.

At the end of what was supposed to be a rebuilding year, the Mavs finished 37-24 and managed to go down in the record books as the first squad from UNO to make it to the D-II College World Series.

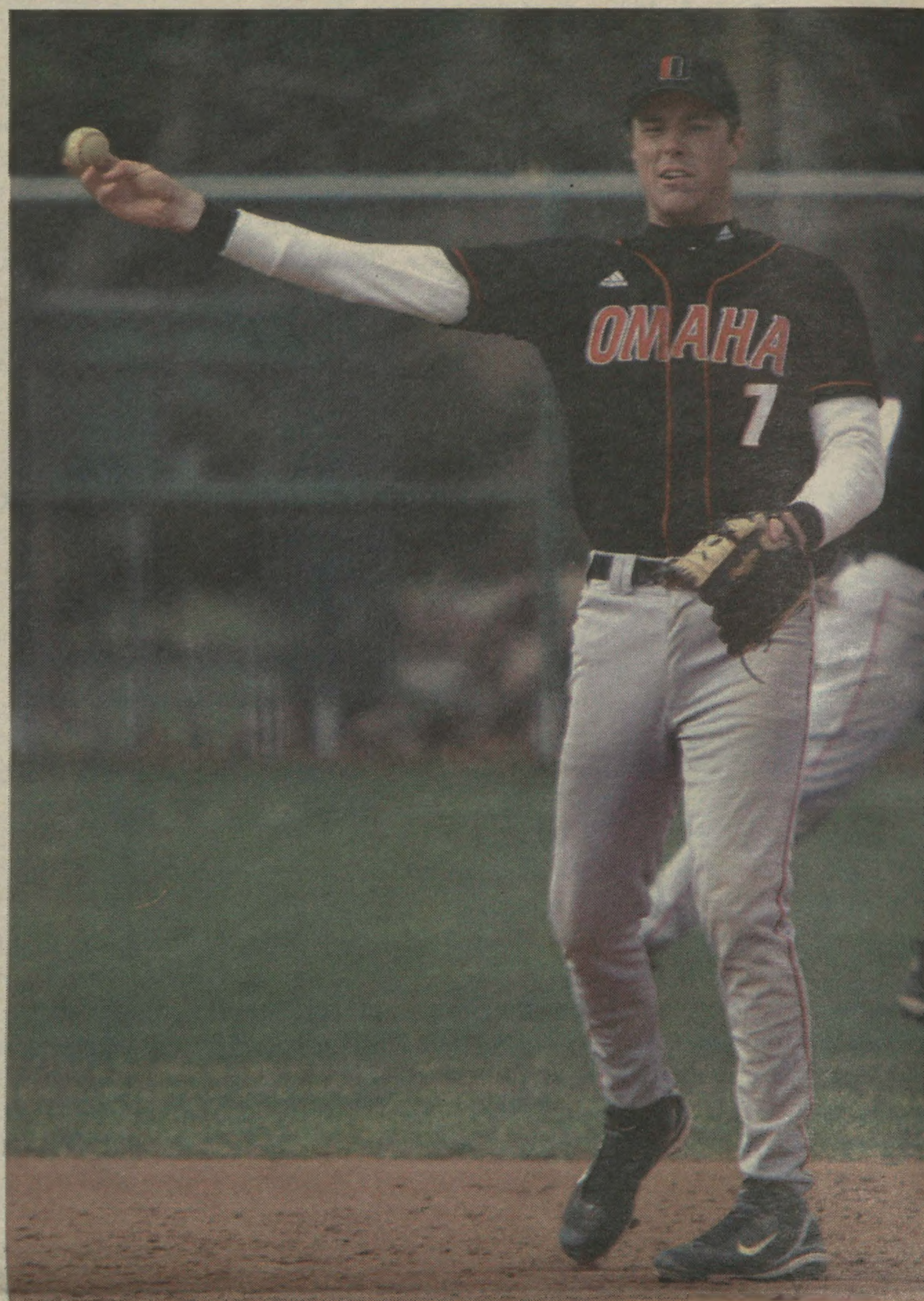


photo by Michelle Bishop

Shortstop Evan Porter, pictured earlier in the season, tallied six RBIs during the regional championship game in May.

Strong season, low turnover points to bright future

JASON SIBSON
SPORTS EDITOR

Six years removed from their national title, the UNO softball team made its way back into the national spotlight in 2007 following a gritty post-season performance. However, the season seemed grim for the Mavericks prior to the North Central Regional Tournament. Following a disappointing exit early in the conference tournament, the Mavs restlessly awaited an at-large invite to the region's tourney that could have just as easily passed them by.

But the invitation made its way to Omaha and inspired an onslaught. The Mavs stormed through the eight team regional tournament, going 4-0 and earning a trip to Nationals. Brianna Cataudella led the way, batting an unprecedented .667 on her way to being named the tournament's most outstanding player.

However, UNO's bats missed the bus to Akron, Ohio. In the National tournament, the Mavericks were swept out of contention in two games, without manufacturing a run in either contest.

"We hit the ball solid, we just couldn't find the holes," said Coach Jeanne Scarpello. "We were right there with the hits, we just didn't get them



photo by Michelle Bishop

Chanele Reaves connects with the pitch during the fifth inning of the May 17 D-II Softball National Championship game against Cal State-Stanislaus at Firestone Stadium in Akron, Ohio. Reaves collected three of the Maverick's six hits during their 3-0 loss in the opening game.

at the key moments."

Even though the exit came sooner than they had hoped, junior third baseman Leslie Svoboda said the tournament was an experience that she'll never forget.

"We worked so hard to get here,"

said Svoboda. "Hopefully we'll get back here next year to experience it all over again."

Anytime a softball team makes it to the national tournament, it's a good year. And although the bar has been raised for UNO's softball program

since its national title in 2001, this year's group gained a lot from their post-season run.

"We're looking at this as a positive," said Scarpello in a statement. "This was a great experience for our

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UNO athletics: Looking back after the maelstrom

Track finishes 4th in NCC, 16th in NCAA II

"Mistakes are the portals to discovery."
— James Joyce
"Mistakes were made." — abstract response of any politician in the wake of a scandal

It was just about a year ago that I took over as sports editor of the *Gateway*. Now that my tenure has drawn to a close and the reins have been passed, a little quiet reflection is in order. When I think of the last 12 months, with all the busy weekends covering the various Maverick teams, the myriad interviews with coaches as well as players and the afternoons spent trying to decipher the seemingly endless string of repercussions relating to the athletic department brouhaha, I am left with one recurring thought:

What the hell just happened?

There is the afterglow of sex — a dreamy contentment brought on by the culmination of pleasure — and there is the feeling when you wake up after a night of hard drinking — confusion, pain and more than a little regret.

When I took the job, I was assured that being sports editor during the summer was an easy segue into the busier fall schedule. We only publish two papers a month, and the teams aren't particularly active anyway. Just find some nice human-interest stories and an occasional preseason update, I was advised.

Then Black Tuesday came.

Rehashing the gory details that followed the announcement of five positions — people, that is — being swept from the athletic department because of previously undisclosed budgetary shortfalls is, God willing, unnecessary. We all heard it and lived it for way too long.

Suffice to say I was totally ill-prepared (and ill-equipped, it can be argued) to deal with an issue of that magnitude that fell under the general heading of "sports" and relied heavily on the kindness and keener intellect of our news department; hearty thanks to those great folks.

The point is, that while the "mistakes" of UNO's gentry were being revealed, I was busy making my own.

But this little diatribe isn't intended to dwell on my failings as an editor or certain administrators' failings as guardians of the public trust; it's about the opportunities that arise from the ashes of a difficult time.

First and foremost it has to be recognized that, while the top brass engaged in damage control and action plans, the Maverick student-athlete foot soldiers kept the true campaign moving forward. No, we didn't pick up any national championships like the year before, but in the Director's Cup, which honors the overall achievements

of a school's sports program, we only slipped from third in all of Division II for 2006 to fourth, a mere 50-odd points behind Division I bound North Dakota.

That's what they call "elite," and if our athletes can accomplish that in a time of general crisis, imagine what they'll do when we're back on solid ground.

In terms of leadership, after the autumn purge of those directly, indirectly or by association responsible for the "big mess," we got down to the business of trying to make sure it never happens again.

John Christensen, a man who has spent more than half his life on the UNO campus and has frequently been called to greatness, took over as interim chancellor and, by the strength of his character and calmness of his presence, immediately restored a significant measure of faith throughout the disenchanted Maverick community.

I met Christensen over a hectic weekend in March when we crossed paths at three separate events in three different locations — a Board of Regents meeting in Lincoln, the D-II wrestling championships in Kearney and at Sen. Chuck Hagel's press conference on the UNO campus. I can say with no fear of overstatement that he is a true believer. With his integrity and unassuming leadership as full-time chancellor, UNO is poised not just for rapid expansion but also for lasting excellence.

And, though my only experience with our new athletic director, David Miller, was in reading his resume and attending a function during the search process, I believe he is a man of accountability and commitment.

The thing I remember most from hearing him respond to questions from those assembled at his meet-and-greet was that, even before he got the job, he spoke of what "we" need to do in the Maverick athletic department. The cynic in me saw it as maybe just one of those little tricks of the job search where you project the confidence that you are the only person for the position. But after talking one-on-one with him, I could see that he has a clear vision and an underlying dedication to a disciplined and upstanding program.

What does it all mean? Only time will tell. Any prognostications made by yours truly come with a strong caveat *emtor* and should only reflect the hopes of a person who fell in love with UNO athletics over the last year — my afterglow.

But, with as much objectivity as I can muster, I think the mistakes of the past have truly been atoned for with the actions of the present, and UNO will pass through Joyce's portal to discover a proud and prosperous future.

Left Field



Jason Glenn

JASON GLENN
STAFF WRITER



Molly Belling

For the track team this spring, it was a few more for the record book instead of one more for the rafters.

While they couldn't quite duplicate their historic North Central Conference indoor

title of three months ago, the women of the UNO track team notched a few more all-time bests and All-American performances. They ended up capping their 2007 outdoor season with a fourth-place finish in the NCC and a tie for 16th at the NCAA II tournament.

While a slip from precipitous, Coach Steve Smith pointed out that a mere 3.5 points separated the undermanned Mavs from second place, and roster-heavy University of South Dakota may have had the jump on them from the outset.

"We probably couldn't have won because South Dakota was a stronger throwing team with the additional throwing events," said Smith. "We just didn't have the depth."

The same can be said of the NCAA II meet, where UNO matched a best-ever ninth place finish last year.

In a sport where hundredths of a second typically separate champions from also-rans, the Mavericks missed out on a potential eleventh-place showing when sophomore Molly Belling crossed the line an atomically slower 11.6217 to the 11.6211 and 11.6214 of the fourth and fifth place finishers. With the extra place points, UNO would have vaulted five spots in the overall standings.

Despite the fraction-of-a-second disappointment, superstar Belling added to her growing legend with NCC titles in the 100, 200 and 4x100 races and finished third in the 200 and sixth in

the 100 at the NCAA II national meet. Belling's 11.49 second clocking in the NCC 100 was the fastest in the nation at the time and topped her own meet record. Her 23.64 second 200 also tied the meet record.

For her efforts, the Omaha native picked up NCC Outstanding Athlete and North Central Region Athlete of the Year honors for the second straight year.

Having exhausted his supply of superlatives for the young speedster, Smith laid it out as plainly as he could.

"Molly's awesome," he said. "Molly is a specially-gifted individual; that's really all you can say about her."

Sophomore Pinar Saka ran to a NCC Regionals title of her own in the 400. Seniors LaVerne Monger and Magda Orzylowski, along with Belling and Saka also added an NCC title in the 4x100. Saka, senior Angela Kampschnieder, freshman Jessica Purdy and Monger captured one more in the 4x400.

In the NCAA II meet, the 4x400 team of Kampschnieder, Purdy, Monger and junior Karin Clarkson picked up All-American honors with a seventh-place finish. The 4x100 team of Clarkson, Belling, Saka and Monger shaved an unbelievable .73 seconds off the UNO record to come in fifth in 45.24.

Smith said it would have been nice to move up a few places in the standings, but he couldn't fault his athletes' effort or performance when it came to the outcome.

"The sprints were really fast this year. We shattered our school record ... and got fifth place," he said. "Most years, that kind of time would get you second or third. But you can't dwell on what place you get when you perform as well as you can perform or you break a school record."



Pinar Saka

Maverick golf falls just short of national berth

JASON SIBSON
SPORTS EDITOR



Lynn Mulligan

The UNO golf team entered the final round of May's 54-hole, six team NCAA Division II North Regional Tournament ship wrecked. A nightmarish 346 stroke total, determined by totaling the four best

individual rounds from each program's five player squad in the second round, was the highest one-day total of the tournament. It left the Mavs in fifth place.

UNO had buried itself in a nearly fathomless hole, needing to make up 21 strokes in order to finish in the top two and earn a bid into the Division II National Tournament.

In the final round, the Mavericks set the links of Waterloo's Sunnyside Country Club in Iowa on fire and nearly

pulled off the miracle.

For Coach Tim Nelson's squad, the third day was the flow to the second day's ebb.

Lynn Mulligan led the way with an impressively low 73, the lowest round of her collegiate career. Her teammates backed her up with rounds of 80, 82 and 83 by Lindsay Newton, Sara Wolfe and Kate O'Dea respectively. North Dakota cruised to a first place finish in the tournament, but UNO made up exactly the amount of strokes needed to force a second place playoff with Truman State.

Unfortunately, the Mavs went on to lose to the Bulldogs by one stroke on the first playoff hole, narrowly missing their chance to extend their spring season.

Nelson and his young squad now await the fall season, set to begin in September.



Kate O'Dea

Read the Gateway
... we know you've got time.



Arts & Leisure

Charley Reed | Arts & Leisure

Page 6

a&l@gateway.unomaha.edu | June 5, 2007

Arts & Leisure summer guide: June edition

CHARLEY REED
A&L EDITOR

One month down and two to go: Summer is hitting its stride as we reach the mid-way point of 2007. During the month of June there are plenty of great events, new movies and shows to keep you busy and spend your hard-earned summer money on.

Film

We've already had the release of the hilarious follow-up to *The 40 Year-Old Virgin* with *Knocked Up* but this week marks the release of *Ocean's Thirteen*, the second *Hostel* film and *Surf's Up*, a kids' movie that parents should also enjoy.

Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer and a film version of the famous *Nancy Drew* novels will open June 15. June 22 brings us the follow up to *Bruce Almighty* called *Evan Almighty* led by *The Office* funnyman Steve Carell.

Finally, the month of June rounds out with Pixar's latest, *Ratatouille*, John McClain's return in *Live Free or Die Hard* and a hard-hitting look at the American healthcare system with Michael Moore's latest documentary, *Sicko*.

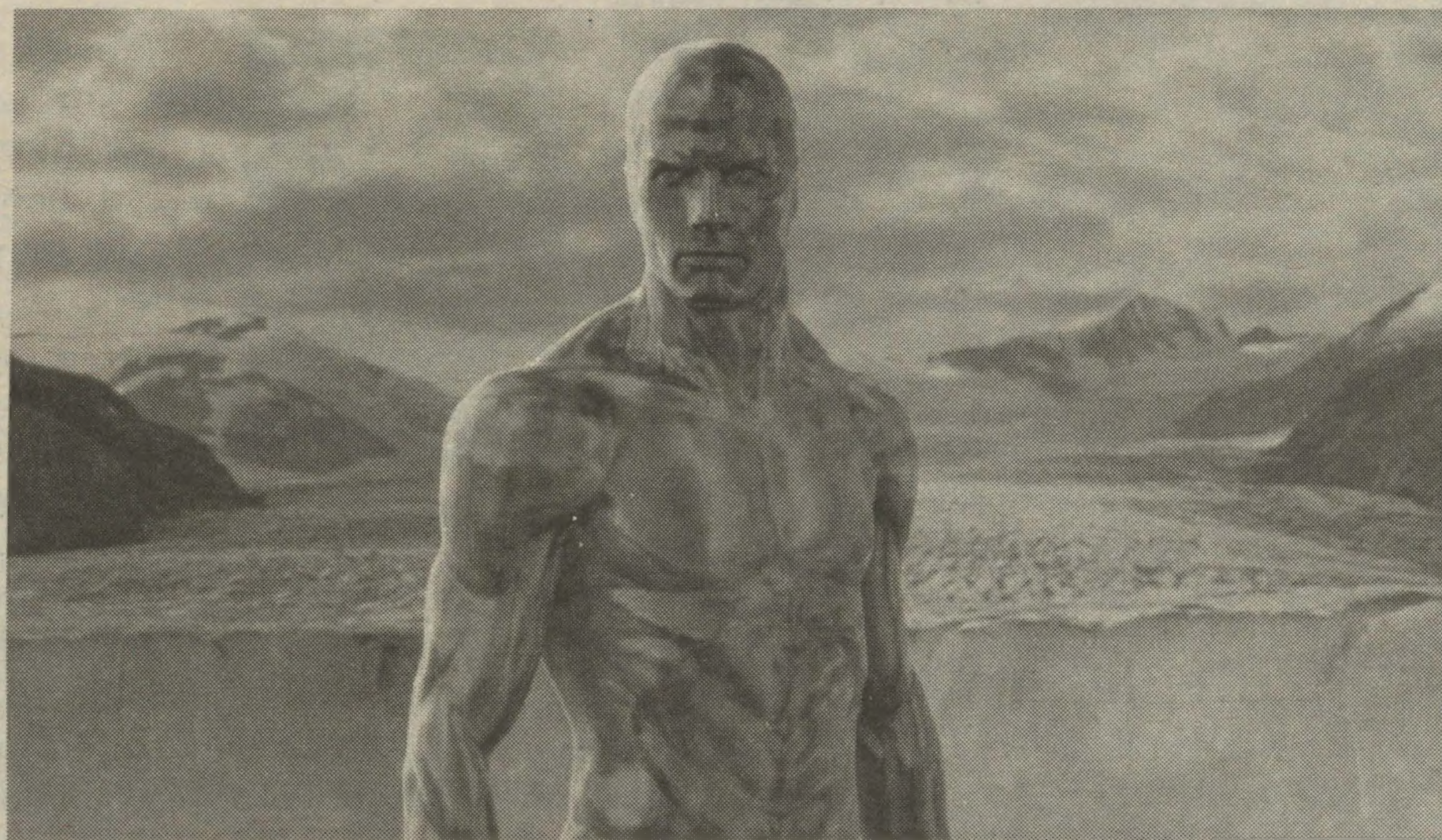
Concerts

Husband and wife country stars **Tim McGraw** and **Faith Hill** will be at the Qwest on June 6th while metal band **Hatebreed** hits Sokol Auditorium on June 7. On June 10, Sokol will host hard-rockers **Sevendust** with local favorites **Venaculas** opening the show.



Photo: Danielle St. Laurent

The following week brings **The Faint** to Sokol while **Ziggy Marley** will be playing at



20th Century Fox

The Silver Surfer is introduced to movie-going audiences this month in the follow-up to 2005's *Fantastic Four*. Voiced by Laurence Fishburne of the *Matrix* trilogy, the *Silver Surfer* is set to unleash a wave of movie fanaticism during a summer of hot movie sequels.

Harrah's in Council Bluffs on June 14. UNO students in the band **Paria** will be at The Rock the next day and **John Mayer** will be playing down at the Verizon Wireless Amphitheater in Kansas City on June 19.

The month rounds out with Omaha favorites **Sarah Benck and the Robbers** playing a free show at The Waiting Room, indie crooners **Bear Country** at Sokol on June 22, **Bowling for Soup** playing at The Rock on June 24 and **Toby Keith** playing down in Kansas City on June 30.



classic children's tale, *Peter Pan*, which continues until June

Theatre

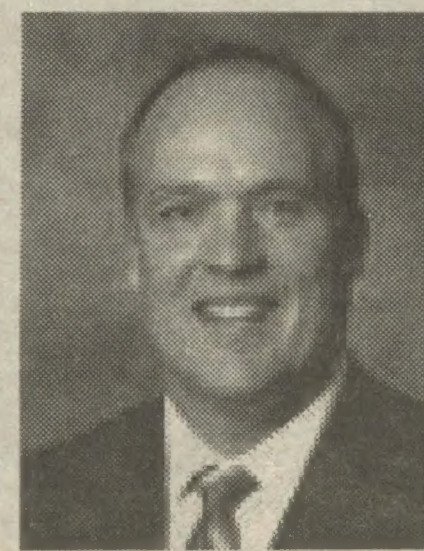
The Omaha Community Playhouse is currently running their version of the

24 while the Blue Barn Theatre will be hosting the **Blue Barn Music Festival** from June 14 through June 23 complete with performances of jazz, Broadway hits, youth musicians and a night of "old world charms." Performances start at 7:30 p.m. each night. The Rose Theatre will also be showcasing *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella*, playing June 14 through June 17.

June also brings the start of the UNO-run **Shakespeare on the Green** festival. *Henry V*, directed by Nebraska Shakespeare Festival co-founder Cindy Melby Phaneuf, runs from June 21 to June 24 with two follow up performances July 5 and 7. *Love's Labours Lost*, directed by theatre professor D. Scott Glasser, will run from June 28 through July 1 with two more performances on July 6 and 8.

Events

Bring your canned goods to the **Kids 'n' Kans Carnival** which will run from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on June 5 at Elmwood Park and is sponsored by the UNO Public Relations Student Society of America. On June 7, UNL basketball coach **Doc Sadler** will be the guest of honor at the **Millard South Athletic Booster Club's Golf Tournament** being held at the Tiburon Golf Club with an 11 a.m. registration.



Doc Sadler

Food and fun are on tap for the annual **Taste of Omaha** at Heartland of America Park from June 8 to June 10. For fresh tastes at home, remember that the **Farmers Market** runs all season long in the Old Market. Check omahafarmersmarket.com for specific dates and times. Also, if you're feeling artsy, bring your best work to the **Omaha Healing Arts Center Poetry Slam** on June 9 starting at 7:30 p.m.

In short: CD reviews in under 200 words



Driver Side Impact
The Very Air We Breathe

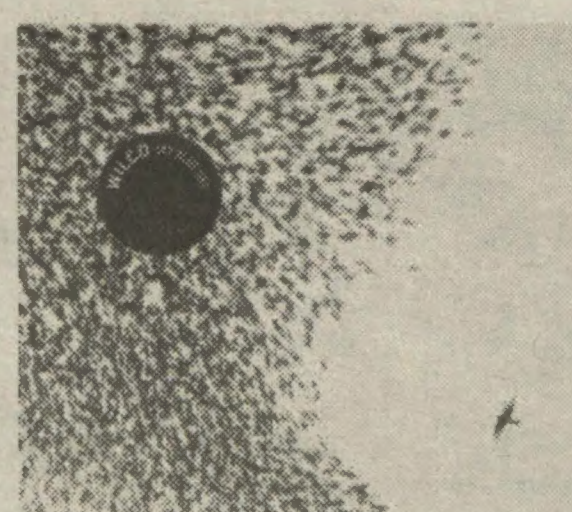
The true irony of this Cleveland band's release isn't that it disgraced the home of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame by not rocking. The irony lies in the fact that it is simultaneously named after oxygen while being stifling and suffocating, leaving listeners begging to be asphyxiated.

The Very Air We Breathe is yet another tired and lame regurgitation of the oh-so-popular whiny, emo, I'm-sad-so-I-wear-my-sister's-jeans set. In their failed attempt for depth, the lyrics come off as high-pitched nonsense and failed poetry. The musicianship is lackluster at best. I've heard better stuff come out of a sixth grade orchestra room.

The only remotely bright spot on the album was the truncated inclusion of some great Killers-esque keyboards and programming. But they even manage to screw that up. By drowning it under the heavy tides of simplistic and sophomoric guitar, *Driver Side Impact* made it more enjoyable to be a part of a head-on collision than to listen to this album.

Grade: F

- Angi Sada



Wilco
Sky Blue Sky

There is something beautiful and sentimental about Wilco's Jeff Tweedy. His sadness is humble in a time of false entitlement among younger, less-capable musicians and songwriters.

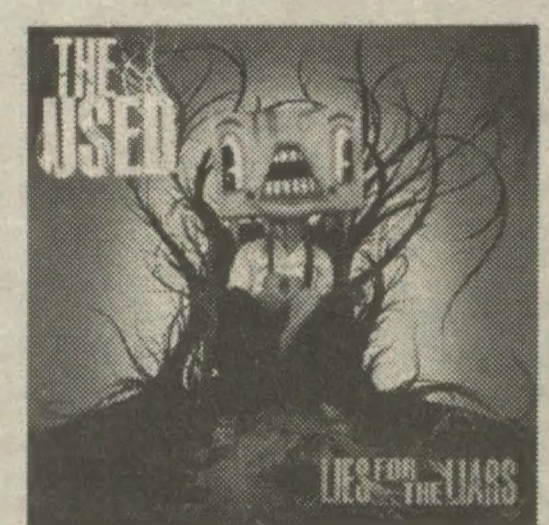
Sky Blue Sky, the tenth full-length release from this smart pre-cursor to the indie rock movement, is passionate and lovely. The articulate guitar work of Nels Cline, particularly on "Impossible Germany," is profound and intense, a true rarity in the year 2007.

While the musicianship is stellar and the sound quality is pristine and beautiful, the star that shines the brightest is Tweedy's personal lyrics. They are succinct and romantic in the true sense of the word. They tell a story bigger and heavier than anything top 40 radio will ever be capable of carrying.

This album is by far the best album released yet this year and proof that there is a light at the end of the musical tunnel which could herald in a new era for the singer-songwriter.

Grade: A

- Angi Sada



The Used
Lies for the Liars

Didactic poetry has its time and place. It's definitely not on this Utah band's third album.

Too metal to be taken seriously and too sappy to be hard, this disaster is a bore-fest with no original sounds coming off of it. Somebody spent far too much time thinking about how badly he wanted to be like HIM's Ville Vallo.

The music is goopy and cumbersome in the many places with heavy-handed processing and mixing. The intricate production is truly the CD's only saving grace. The thick instrumentation is actually a thinly veiled disguise for sub-standard musicians just trying to live out the rock and roll dream. I can't be mad at them for that. I can have a crawling, vomiting sensation in the back of my throat, but no anger.

Maybe 100 years from now people will see the lyrical genius of Bert McCracken and Co. I highly doubt that will happen, as I doubt anyone will remember they ever happened 10 years from now let alone a solid century from today.

Grade: D+

- Angi Sada

Back off my backside Administrative, political shuffles cause heartburn

Bitter with Age



Angi Sada

I am a big girl. I couldn't hide it if I tried. I have a bizarre floop of skin that hangs over the sides of my bras (herein referred to as the "side boob"). The tops of my

thighs rub together when I run. In fact, I haven't worn corduroy in years as I'm afraid the friction might cause me to burst into flames. I love regular, as in not diet, sodas. Especially the kind with ice cream in them, sweet blessed ice cream. I like pasta and pizza and beer and bread. Holy heaven, I love bread. I digress.

The point is I am not wafer thin (mmm ... wafers). I never have been. I never will be. I don't really want to be.

I do want to be healthy. I do want to like what I see in the mirror when I run past it as fast as I can without igniting the aforementioned inferno. I want to like myself. And I normally do.

On rare occasion, I do feel a little down on myself because of my jelly belly. I would love to go shopping with my thinner friends, but there is something slightly dehumanizing to reach for the size 18 jeans when your best friend is reaching for the size 4 pair. I worry sometimes that my daughter's classmates say mean things and make her feel bad about the fact that her mother has what appear to be wings where her triceps used to live.

Sometimes I am invisible because I am so big. I see men hold doors open for slimmer, more attractive women and let it slide shut right in front of me. If I go to the bar alone, that is usually how I stay the entire night.

I just read a column in the *Omaha World-Herald*, talking about New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson. The esteemed columnist said that, if Richardson were to win the presidency in 2008, he would be the "porkiest" president since William Taft in 1909. What does that have to do with the guy's ability to lead a nation?

Health is obviously not as big of an issue in elections as one would think since Dick Cheney has more battery-powered components than an adult toy store. It's because fat people aren't commercially pretty. (Not that Cheney and Bush are necessarily hot pieces of ass like that dreamy Bill Clinton.)

Television. Fashion magazines. Well-intentioned, but usually meaner than they realize, doctors and health-care workers as well as inconveniently shaped and sized flip top desks in lecture halls remind me that I am a fatty on a regular basis. Normally, I don't really pay attention.

Not because I don't care about my health, but because if I do I will go to sleep crying every night. If I listen I will stop going to those lectures so as to avoid the embarrassment of seeing my thighs spill over the sides of those seats. I will hate myself in an unhealthy manner that sets me up to fail. I will not allow that to happen.

I will not let my daughter watch me starve myself to only end up right back where I started. I will not waste my entire life away in a gym. Four hours a week is plenty for me. (Have you smelled the inside of HPER? Ew.) I will not have half of my intestines ripped out by some whack-happy surgeon looking to buy a new vacation home off of my obesity. I will not feel like a freak because I'm not.

Last week, while reading, I had the television on for background noise because a 12-year-old and a half-chihuahua, half-pug puppy aren't enough for me. Valerie Bertinelli, star of the 1980s sitcom "One Day at a Time" and several new Jenny Craig advertisements was doing an interview on what shall remain an unnamed entertainment network. The narrator of the pseudo-news spot mentioned that Bertinelli had "ballooned to a size 14" after settling into a long marriage and giving birth. According to Trimlife.com, the average American woman is a size 14. Fifty percent of us are that size or larger, the Web site said. I set my book down and immediately found myself infuriated.

I was offended, not really for myself because I know what and who I am and I happen to like myself enough that I've been called arrogant more than once. But for girls and women who struggle with their body image everyday, I was hurt and heartbroken. I imagined girls getting up from watching this spot and purging their dinners. I imagined others hating themselves and punishing themselves by shoving another hand full of chips in their mouths. I imagined all of them crying.

Another Web site, Inch-away.com, said the average American woman is 5'4" and weighs 140 pounds. The average American model is 5'11" and weighs 117 pounds. Quite a disparaging difference, don't you think?

So, yeah I have a big butt that I cannot hide. And, yeah, my booty is rocking everywhere I don't want it to be. And, yeah, I am at risk for some serious health issues. But, I will not let depression be one of them.

I will continue to go for long

See **SADA**: Page 8

A lot has happened in the last month, both on campus and in the rest of the country.

UNO named a new chancellor - well, we made permanent John Christensen's appointment as chancellor. We also brought in a new athletic director, David Miller, and made permanent the more-than-capable Tim Kaldahl's appointment as director of university relations.

Personally, I was excited by the selection of Christensen as our next chancellor. In the wake of last summer's never-ending supply of controversies, I thought Christensen was the sort of administrator UNO needed. I still believe he will do a great job in the position.

However, after discussing the appointment with a couple of my friends who were hoping for some fresh blood, I came to appreciate a position more critical of the appointment. In essence, the position acknowledges that Christensen still represents the old guard of university administration.

The concern is that the administration will just maintain its status quo. It will not evolve; it will not improve. It may, in fact, stagnate and lose direction. Most importantly, the goal of making students the chief priority may descend to mere rhetoric from its place as a guiding principle of campus policy.

It occurred to me that these concerns are rational, even if a bit cynical. Moreover, I realized the concern is that, down the road, the student body may feel precisely how I feel today about politicians on the national level. In particular, the way I feel about the Congressional Democrats who have managed to do nothing to stop the hawkish status quo from making whatever demands it wishes.

In case you have not heard, a week and a half ago, the Congressional Democrats managed their worst in a series of failures since the midterm elections. They failed to establish any timetable or meaningful plan to get us out of the immoral and inexcusable occupation of Iraq.

Cindy Sheehan, who visited campus in April, perfectly summed up the failing Democrats in a blog she posted on dailykos.com: "We did not elect you to help sink our ship of state but to guide it to safe harbor. ... We gave you a chance, you betrayed us." A couple sentences earlier, Sheehan announced she was quitting the Democratic Party.

Myself, I quit the Democrats years ago. I gave up completely when John Kerry announced his decision to concede prior to CNN projecting the results of the 2004 election. But that's another story.

The point is that the Democrats failed their supporters. They ended up betraying us, even though at the time many of us celebrated their newly confirmed mandate.

We hoped that the Congressional Democrats could bring the Bush administration under control. We hoped they could stop some of the bloodshed being conducted in the name of the Stars and Stripes and the republic for which it once stood.

Given that disappointment and frustration seems par for the course anymore in politics, there is a serious question about whether Christensen's appointment as chancellor of UNO might result in a similar situation. Especially should he be given the opportunity to do great things and settle for the traditional and mediocre. Settle for serving the students of 20 years from now rather than today's flesh-and-blood students.

Still, it is my belief that Christensen will not fall prey to this possibility. I believe he will be one of the best chancellors UNO has ever had. But I have been wrong before.

Maybe, though, being open and aware from the beginning about the possible pitfalls the future might hold is a good step to avoiding them in the first place. I certainly hope so.

But if not, vigilance will at least let us know what might be coming early enough to do something about it.

Sinister Slant



Scott Stewart

the gateway

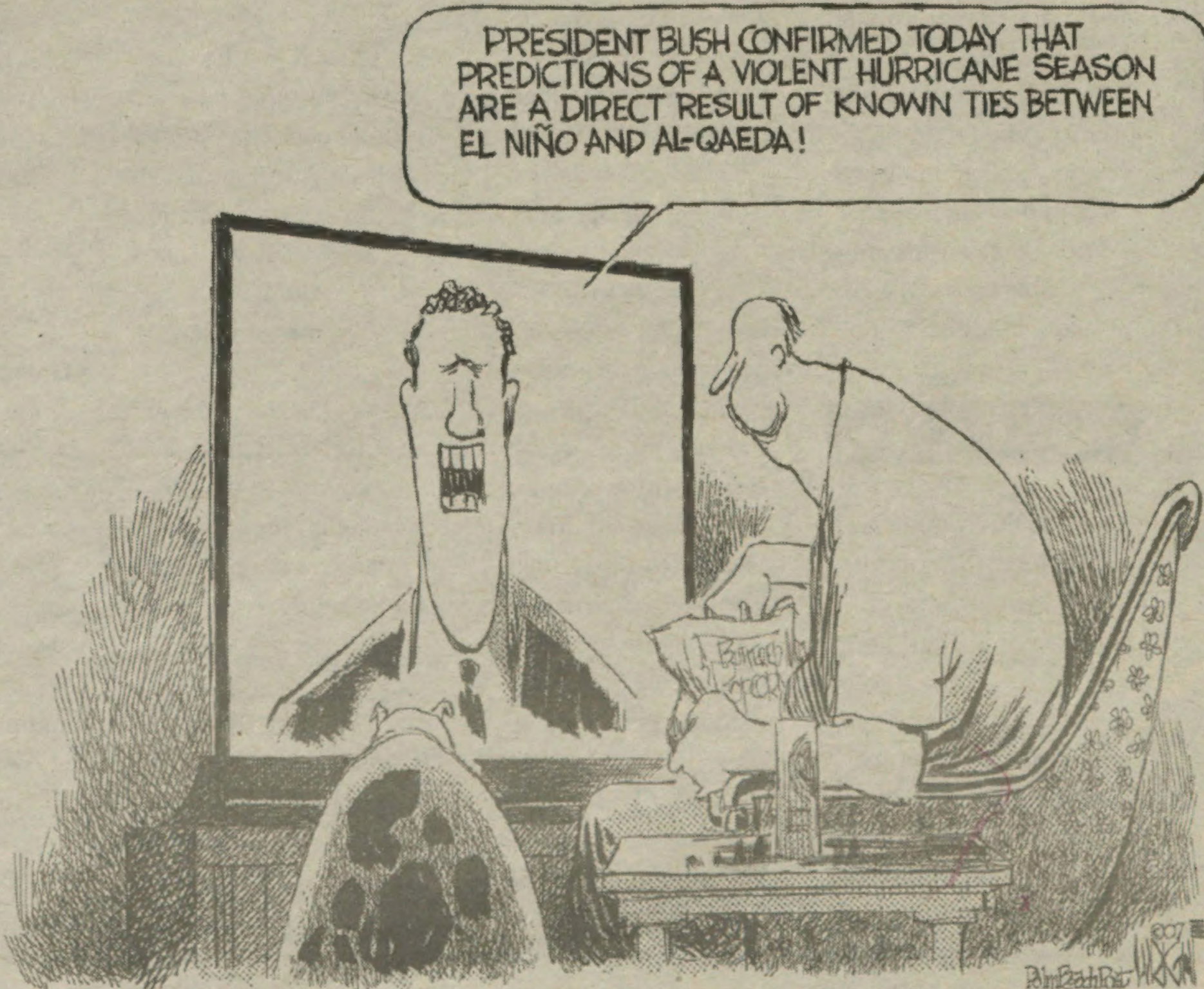
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Spring 2007 commencement ceremony has new graduates looking upward, onward



More than 1200 students graduated at the spring commencement ceremony on May 4, which was held at the Civic Auditorium. Justin Ptacnik, who graduated with a bachelor of science in management information systems, presented the student commencement address. Timothy Hart, senior vice president and treasurer of First National Bank was given the Alumnus Achievement Award at the ceremony.

photos and caption by Patrick Doty



From **SADA**: Page 7

walks with my insane puppy every morning. I will ride bikes with my daughter to summer school. I will avoid simple things that I don't really like anyway like French fries and fried chicken.

But, I will not be a prisoner to the expectations of an unkind and hypocritical society that says movies

like *Norbit*, whose every laugh is at the expense of fat people, are worth watching, while telling their children to be nice.

I'm going to like myself just the way I am. Any changes made will just reaffirm to me that I am worth my weight in gold. And that's a lot of gold.

From **SOFTBALL**: Page 7

younger kids for them to want to get back here."

Scarpello will see most of this talented lineup return next season, losing only four seniors to graduation. With new arms coming in to aide the rotation, their sites are set for a trip back to the national spotlight in 2008.

"We have a couple good strong pitchers coming in," Svoboda noted. "I think we're going to bounce right back from where we ended and get back there next year."

Photo Editor Michelle Bishop contributed to this report.

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This is the first paper of the semester. The next issue is June 19th. Have a great summer! 402-554-2470 * www.unogateway.com